

Lynn Strother Hinkle
7980 Whites Creek Pike
Joelton, Tennessee 37080

2064 '99 SEP -9 AIO :53

September 2, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1060
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Numbers 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

To Whom It May Concern:

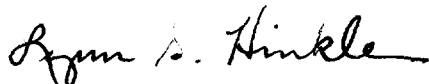
I am writing to offer my strongest support to the proposed efforts to ban forced molting of hens.

I recognize that the FDA presently requires warning labels on poultry packaging and egg cartons in an effort to encourage people to adapt their behaviors, to minimize their likelihood of contracting Salmonella enteritidis from hens and eggs. But that is not enough. How many cooks can resist the temptation to lick the spoon after scraping brownie batter into the pan? How many athletes take seriously the warnings about drinking protein-rich drinks containing raw eggs? How many people have not -- or cannot -- read the warnings and are totally unaware of the dangers? *Warnings alone are inadequate, especially when there are known ways to minimize the likelihood of contamination at its source.*

The cruel practice of forced molting through extended starvation and water deprivation so damages the immune systems of hens that the shedding of the Salmonella bacteria is increased. That is a scientifically established fact. Forced molting is one of the principal causes of this infectious disease in hens, their eggs... and in the human beings who consume them. *The obvious reality is that the farm practice of forced molting results in preventable risk to human health.* The operative word here is *preventable*.

I urge you to ban forced molting immediately.

Very sincerely,



Lynn Strother Hinkle

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98N 1230

C491

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C491

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C492
96P-0418/C491

MASSACHUSETTS
SEP 9 1870

A high-contrast, black and white image of a postage stamp. The stamp features a portrait of a man, likely a historical figure, facing right. To the left of the portrait, the word 'ZIP' is printed in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Above the portrait, the number '33' is printed, followed by 'USA' in smaller capital letters. The entire image is heavily stylized with high contrast, resulting in a grainy, almost binary appearance. The background is dark, and the stamp itself is light, creating a stark contrast.

